



Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

News Release

January 13, 2006

Contact:

Elizabeth Sollis
801-538-4410

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statistics show treatment and prevention work

Salt Lake City – Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health released its annual report today. The report provides examples of the efforts and outcomes of the statewide system for treating people with substance abuse addictions and those with mental illness. Highlights of the report include:

Substance Abuse:

Drug Overdose Prevention & Education (DOPE) Survey: Administered in 2002 to 304 adults in Salt Lake County. Of those surveyed, 86% of males and 82% of females had witnessed an overdose, with heroin being the most common cause of overdose.

Primary Drug of Choice: Since 1995, admissions to the public treatment system, due to methamphetamine use, have increased from 8.1% to 27.6% in FY2005. Methamphetamine is the #1 primary substance of choice for women admitted to the public treatment system, accounting for 38% of all admissions. Alcohol remains the primary substance of choice for men admitted to the public treatment system, accounting for approximately 39% of admissions. Alcohol is the primary drug of abuse for 92% of patients over the age of 65.

Treatment Needs: The public substance abuse treatment system, at capacity, is currently serving approximately 18,642 individuals – approximately 23% of the actual need in the state. A combined total of approximately 103,186 adults and youth are in need of substance abuse treatment services.

Patients with Dependent Children: 41% of adult patients have dependent children. Northeastern Utah has the highest percentage, 86%, of female patients with children.

-MORE-

57% of all methamphetamine admissions have at least one child. The average number of children per patient is 2.2.

Parents make a difference: Data indicates a sharp decrease in drug use among youth when parents teach them drugs are very wrong as opposed to just wrong.

Decrease in Substance Abuse: Within 30 days prior to discharge/completion of substance abuse treatment, 52% of patients reported no use of alcohol or other drugs.

Drug Court: Participation in drug court resulted in increased employment rates, an 89% decrease in drug use, and a 39% decline in arrests.

Mental Health:

Funding: Due to a decrease in funding for non-Medicaid consumers the system has seen a 55% increase in emergency/crisis treatment and in-patient stays have increased by 114%. In 2003, 46,051 individuals were served in mental health services, compared to 42,480 in 2005.

Primary Diagnosis: Depressive disorder continues to be the most common diagnosis for individuals 13 and older, with 50% of individuals 66 and older suffering from this disorder.

Project RECONNECT: A project designed to mobilize and coordinate community resources to assist youth (ages 14-25), with emotional disturbances or emerging mental illnesses, to successfully transition into adulthood and achieve full potential in life. This project has resulted in an 82% reduction in criminal activity and an 81% decrease in suicide attempts.

Utah State Hospital: Last year the Utah State Hospital served 770 patients. The median length of stay for forensic patients was 149 days, 186 days for adults, and 419 days for children

The data and outcomes found in the annual report continue to support the following:

1. Prevention and treatment do work.
2. Providing prevention and treatment is cost effective.
3. Prevention and treatment help preserve families.

To review the annual report in it's entirety, please go to the web, www.dsamh.utah.gov.

###